

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 A printing control apparatus for controlling a  
printer having a stapling function for binding together  
a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been  
5 printed out, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring paper information  
relating to printing paper that has been set in the  
printer;

10 detection means for detecting, on the basis of the  
paper information, a position at which the printing  
paper can be stapled; and

staple position setting means for setting a staple  
position in the printer on the basis of the detected  
position at which stapling can be performed.

15 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the  
printer has a plurality of paper feed units in each of  
which it is possible to stack a plurality of sheets of  
the printing paper; and

said acquisition means acquires the paper  
20 information for each paper feed unit.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, further  
comprising paper feed unit setting means for setting a  
target paper feed unit, which is the object of an output  
operation, from among the plurality of paper feed units;

25 wherein said detection means detects a position at  
which stapling can be performed on printing paper that

has been loaded in said target paper feed unit.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said paper feed unit setting means includes:

paper information display means for displaying, for  
5 each paper feed unit, the paper information that has been acquired by said acquisition means; and

paper feed unit designation means for making it possible to input a user command for setting said target paper feed unit.

10 5. The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising binding location setting means for setting a binding location printing paper that has been stacked in said target paper feed unit;

wherein said detection means detects a position at  
15 which stapling can be performed based upon the binding location.

6. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said staple position setting means includes:

staple position display means for displaying  
20 information relating to a position at which stapling can be performed detected by said detection means; and

staple position designating means for making it possible to input a user command for setting a staple position.

25 7. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the paper information includes information indicating

transport direction of the printing paper.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the paper information includes information indicating the size of the printing paper.

5 9. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the paper information includes information indicating the type of printing paper.

10. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the paper information includes icon information indicating  
10 icons assigned to accommodating means in advance.

11. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising data transmitting means for transmitting information relating to the staple position, which has been set by said staple position setting means, to the  
15 printer.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said data transmitting means further transmits image data to be printed to the printer together with the information relating to the staple position.

20 13. A printing control apparatus for controlling a printer having a plurality of paper feed units in which it is possible to stack a plurality of sheets of printing paper, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring, for each paper  
25 feed unit of the printer, paper information relating to printing paper that has been set;

paper information display means for displaying, for each paper feed unit, the paper information that has been acquired by said acquisition means;

paper feed unit designation means for making it possible to input a user command for setting a target paper feed unit, which is the object of an output operation, from among the plurality of paper feed units;

paper feed unit setting means for setting said target paper feed unit based upon the user command;

10 and

control means for controlling printing on the printing paper that has been stacked in said target paper feed unit.

14. A method of controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out, comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring paper information relating to printing paper that has been set in the printer;

20 a detection step of detecting, on the basis of the paper information, a position at which the printing paper can be stapled; and

a staple-position setting step of setting a staple position in the printer on the basis of the detected position at which stapling can be performed.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said

detection step includes steps of:

discriminating a position at which stapling can be performed based upon information indicating the size of the printing paper;

5 discriminating a position at which stapling can be performed based upon information indicating transport direction of the printing paper; and

10 discriminating a position at which stapling can be performed based upon a binding location of the printing paper.

16. A method of controlling a printer having a plurality of paper feed units in each of which it is possible to stack a plurality of sheets of printing paper, comprising:

15 an acquisition step of acquiring, for each paper feed unit of the printer, paper information relating to printing paper that has been set;

a paper information display step of displaying, for each paper feed unit, the paper information that has  
20 been acquired;

a paper feed unit designation step of inputting a user command for setting a target paper feed unit, which is the object of an output operation, from among the plurality of paper feed units;

25 a paper feed unit setting step of setting said target paper feed unit based upon the user command;

and

a printing step of printing on the printing paper that has been stacked in said target paper feed unit.

17. A printing system comprising a host computer and a printer that are connected to each other, wherein said  
5 host computer includes:

acquisition means for acquiring paper information relating to printing paper that has been set in the printer;

10 detection means for detecting, on the basis of the paper information, a position at which the printing paper can be stapled;

staple-position setting means for setting a staple position in the printer on the basis of the position at  
15 which stapling can be performed; and

transmitting means for transmitting information relating to the staple position that has been set to said printer; and

said printer includes:

20 printing means for printing an image, which is based upon image data, on the printing paper;

receiving means for receiving the information relating to the staple position that has been transmitted from said host computer; and

25 stapling means for binding together a plurality sheets of printing paper, after printout has been

performed by said printing means, in conformity with the information relating to the staple position.

18. The system according to claim 17, wherein said transmitting means of said host computer transmits image  
5 data to be printed to the printer together with the information relating to the staple position.

19. The system according to claim 17, wherein said printer has a plurality of paper feed units in each of which it is possible to stack a plurality of sheets of  
10 the printing paper;

said host computer further including paper feed unit setting means for setting a target paper feed unit, which is the object of an output operation, from among the plurality of paper feed units, based upon the paper  
15 information for each paper feed unit acquired by said acquisition means;

said detection means detects the position at which stapling can be performed on printing paper that has been loaded in said target paper feed unit.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein said paper feed unit setting means displays, for each paper feed unit, the paper information that has been acquired by said acquisition means and sets said target paper feed unit based upon a user command in response to the  
25 display.

21. The system according to claim 18, wherein said

staple position setting means displays information relating to a position at which stapling can be performed detected by said detection means and sets the staple position based upon a user command in response to the display.

22. The system according to claim 17, wherein a plurality of said printers are connected, and said host computer further includes printer setting means for setting a printer that is to perform printing among said plurality of printers.

23. The system according to claim 17, wherein each of said means of said host computer is implemented by a printer driver.

24. A printing system comprising a host computer and a printer that are connected together, said printer having a plurality of paper feed units in each of which it is possible to stack a plurality of sheets of printing paper, wherein said host computer includes:

acquisition means for acquiring, for each paper feed unit of said printer, paper information relating to printing paper that has been set;

paper information display means for displaying, for each paper feed unit, the paper information that has been acquired by said acquisition means;

paper feed unit designation means for making it possible to input a user command for setting a target



paper feed unit, which is the object of an output operation, from among the plurality of paper feed units;

paper feed unit setting means for setting said target paper feed unit based upon the user command;

5 and

control means for controlling printing on the printing paper that has been stacked in said target paper feed unit.

25. A recording medium on which has been recorded a  
10 program for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out, said control program having at least:

code of an acquisition step of acquiring paper  
15 information relating to printing paper that has been set in the printer;

code of a detection step of detecting, on the basis of the paper information, a position at which the printing paper can be stapled; and

20 code of a staple-position setting step of setting a staple position in the printer on the basis of the detected position at which stapling can be performed.

26. A recording medium on which has been recorded a program for controlling a printer having a plurality of  
25 paper feed units in each of which it is possible to stack a plurality of sheets of printing paper, said

control program having at least:

code of an acquisition step of acquiring, for each paper feed unit of the printer, paper information relating to printing paper that has been set;

5 code of a paper information display step of displaying, for each paper feed unit, the paper information that has been acquired;

code of a paper feed unit designation step of inputting a user command for setting a target paper feed  
10 unit, which is the object of an output operation, from among the plurality of paper feed units;

code of a paper feed unit setting step of setting said target paper feed unit based upon the user command; and

15 code of a printing step of printing on the printing paper that has been stacked in said target paper feed unit.